

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 NSC-05

DODE-00 CIAE-00 /048 W

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R 081245Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1650

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY ROME

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 2644

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BA, SA

SUBJECT: HELICOPTERS FOR BAHRAIN

REF: (A) MANAMA 660 (B) JIDDA 1545 (C) JIDDA 0782

1. MODA RAISED QUESTION OF BAHRAIN HELICOPTERS WITH US ON APRIL 5. MEMBERS OF FOREIGN PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT TOLD US THAT SAG DOES NOT CARE WHETHER HELICOPTERS ARE DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO BAHRAIN OR TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR REDELIVERY TO BAHRAIN. THEY PROPOSE TO OBTAIN FROM BAHRAIN CERTIFICATION THAT HELICOPTERS WILL NOT BE USED OUTSIDE OF BAHRAIN AND THAT BAHRAIN WILL NOT TRANSFER THEM TO ANOTHER PARTY. SAG WOULD FURNISH USG COPY OF THIS CERTIFICATION ALONG WITH THEIR OWN CERTIFICATION WHICH WE ORDINARELY REQUIRE FROM THEM ON EQUIPMENT PURCHASED BY SAUDI ARABIA. FOREIGN PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT ASKED IF THAT WOULD SURMOUNT DIFFICULTIES THAT HAD ARISEN IN HELICOPTER SALE.

2. WE SAID THAT OUR CONCERN WAS THAT CONTRACT SHOW THAT BAHRAIN WAS END USER AND THAT HELICOPTERS BE DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO BAHRAIN. NON-TRANSFER ASSURANCE BY BAHRAIN WAS ALSO REQUIREMENT. WE OFFERED TO TRANSMIT MODA PRO-SECRET

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POSAL TO WASHINGTON FOR STUDY. WE SAID THAT, IN ANY EVENT, WHOLE QUESTION COULD BE EASILY RESOLVED IF APPLICATION FOR SALE WERE CHANGED TO SHOW THAT BAHRAIN WAS END USER AND CONSIGNEE. MEMBERS OF FOREIGN PROCUREMENT STAFF THAUGHT THAT CONTRACT ALREADY STATED THAT BAHRAIN WAS END USER, BUT WHEN THEY EXAMINED THE FILE IN OUR PRESENCE, THEY DISCOVERED ONLY MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN'S CER-

TIFICATE OF ASSURANCE THAT HELICOPTERS WOULD NOT BE TRANSFERRED BY SAUDI ARABIA TO THIRD PARTY WITHOUT U.S. PERMISSION. THEY SAID THAT THEY THOUGHT THAT SUBSEQUENT EXCHANGES OR AMMENDMENTS HAD TAKEN CARE OF THIS PROBLEM AND HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT BAHRAIN WAS END USER. THEY PROMISED TO SEARCH FOR AMENDMENTS AND LET US KNOW NEXT WEEK.

3. FOREIGN PROCUREMENT STAFF WAS APPRESHENSIVE ABOUT TIMING OF DELIVERY OF HELICOPTERS TO BAHRAIN. THEY WERE AFRAID THAT TRANSFER NOW WOULD CAUSE UNPLEASANT REVERBATIONS AFFECTING F-15 SALE. WE ASSURED THEM THAT AS LONG AS LEGAL REQUIREMENTS WERE TAKEN CARE OF, THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

4. FOREIGN PROCUREMENT STAFF WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT MAINTAINING SOME SAUDI CONTROL OVER HELICOPTERS BEING PURCHASED FOR BAHRAIN. THEY SAID THEY COULD NOT BE SURE OF BAHRAIN FUTURE POLICY AND THAT AFTER TWO OR THREE YEARS, THEY MAY WELL WANT TO HAVE SOME WAY OF SEEING THAT HELICOPTERS WERE NOT USED FOR UNDESIRABLE PURPOSE. IN THIS RESPECT, THEY THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR SAUDI ARABIA TO CONTROL MINITIONS AND SPARE PARTS SUPPLY. WE SAID WE UNDERSTOOD BUT WE MADE NO COMMITMENT ON THIS POINT.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT READ ENTIRE APPLICATION FOR SALE
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OF HELICOPTERS, BUT WE CWONDER IF PERHAPS SIMPLEST WAY OF SETTLING PROBLEM WOULD BE TO SUBSTITUTE NEW ENCLOSURE FOR CURRENT ENCLOSURE 9. IN NEW ENCLOLURE, MINISTER OF DEFENSE WOULD STATE THAT HELICOPTERS ARE BEING PURCHASED FOR BAHRAIN AND BAHRAIN WILL BE REQUIRED TO FURNISH NON-TRANSFER CERTIFICATE. MODA APPARENTLY WILLING TO GIVE US NEW ENCLOSURE 9 AND MAY EVEN TAKE CERTAIN SATISFACTION IN REQUIRING NON-TRANSFER CERTIFICATE FROM BAHRAIN.
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